

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement and annotated sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to FIGS. 3A and 3B as follows.

FIG. 3A has been amended to label the parameters a, 2a, 3a, and 4a as described in paragraph [0033].

FIG. 3B has been amended to label the parameters a, 2a, 3a, and 4a as described in paragraph [0033].

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed August 13, 2007 has been carefully considered.

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status and Amendment of the Claims

Claims 2-3 and 5-6 are currently pending.

The Applicants are grateful for the indication of allowability of claims 2-3 and 5-6, subject their re-writing in independent form. Claims 2-3 and 5-6 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of independent claim 1.

In the specification, the paragraphs [0019], [0027], and [0032] have been amended to correct minor editorial problems. No new matter has been added.

Claims 2-5 and 5-6 have been amended to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. Support for these changes may be found in the specification, figures, and claims as originally filed.

Claims 1 and 4 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

With this Amendment it is respectfully submitted the claims satisfy the statutory requirements.

Objections to the Specification

The specification stands objected to for various informalities.¹ With this Amendment, paragraphs 19, 27, and 32 of the specification have been amended accordingly. The Applicants respectfully request the objections to the specification be withdrawn.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings stand objected to for various informalities.² With this Amendment, corrected drawing sheets for FIGS. 3A and 3B are provided. The Applicants respectfully request the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Woods.^{3 4} With this Amendment, Claims 1 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejection of Claims 1 and 4 moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

¹ Office Action mailed August 13, 2007, at p. 2.

² Office Action mailed August 13, 2007, at p. 2.

³ U.S. Patent No. 2,658,393 to Woods.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for the finding of allowable subject matter in Claims 2-3 and 5-6 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action. However, Applicants point out that the reasons for allowability of the above referenced claims are not limited to the reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action, and that additional reasons for allowability may exist, each of which may be independently sufficient to establish the patentability of one or more pending claims.

The Applicants respectfully reserve the right to introduce, articulate, or otherwise comment on any such additional reasons for allowance as may be appropriate in any future proceedings concerning the claimed invention.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

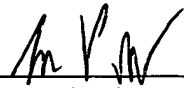
⁴ Office Action at p. 3.

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

THELEN REID BROWN
RAYSMAN & STEINER LLP

Dated: December 13, 2007



John P. Schaub
Reg. No. 42,125

THELEN REID BROWN RAYSMAN & STEINER LLP
P.O. Box 640640
San Jose, CA 95164-0640
Tel. (408) 292-5800
Fax. (408) 287-8040